

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 02054 301855Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 PRS-01 /047 W

-----117180 310039Z /73

R 301730Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5214

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2054

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GY, PINT, SU

SUBJECT: GUYANA PROTESTS SOVIET MEDDLING

REF: A. GEORGETOWN 2013; B. GEORGETOWN 2025

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GOG, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HAS PROTESTED TO THE SOVIET CHARGE CONCERNING SOVIET MEDDLING IN GUYANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY THEIR ROLE IN CONVINCING OPPOSITION LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN TO CALL THE CURRENT SUGAR STRIKE. THE PROTEST WAS LONG OVERDUE, BUT IS PROBABLY INTENDED MORE AS A TACTICAL MOVE BY BURNHAM TO PERSUADE THE SOVIETS TO ABANDON JAGAN THAN IT IS--AT THIS MOMENT--AN INDICATION OF A SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN SOVIET-GOG RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS CALLED ME AT NOON AUGUST 27

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 02054 301855Z

CONCERNING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER THAT DAY (REF. B) CENTERING ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, ANDREW YOUNG'S VISIT AND US-GOG RELATIONS (EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED A TAPE TRANSCRIPT OF THE CONFERENCE AND IS TRANSCRIBING IT), AND DURING THE CONVERSATION SAID THAT HE FELT VERY GOOD; HE HAD JUST DONE SOMETHING HE HAD BEEN WANTING TO DO FOR A LONG TIME. HE HAD CALLED IN THE SOVIET CHARGE, VICTOR

TKATCHENKO (AMBASSADOR VLADAMIR KOTENEV HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM GEORGETOWN SINCE JULY), AND TOLD HIM THAT IF HE OR MEMBERS OF HIS MISSION CONTINUED TO INTERFERE IN GUYANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DECLARE ONE OR ALL OF THEM PERSONA NON GRATA.

2. WILLS SAID THAT THE GOG HAD OBTAINED CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN MEDDLING. HE NAMED VALARIE KOVAL (BELIEVED TO BE KGB OFFICIAL) AS BEING THE MAIN OFFENDER, BUT SAID THAT SEVERAL OTHER SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE ALSO INVOLVED. IN DESCRIBING THE SITUATION, WILLS SAID THAT HE AND BURNHAM HAD OBTAINED CUBAN HELP (DURING THEIR TRIP TO CUBA) IN PERSUADING JAGAN NOT TO CALL A SUGAR STRIKE. THE CUBANS HAD TOLD JAGAN THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE "UNSOCIALIST" IN GUYANA. INITIALLY JAGAN FOUND THIS ARGUMENT PERSUASIVE, BUT HIS WIFE, JANET, BACKED BY THE SOVIETS TALKED HIM INTO REVERSING HIMSELF AND CALLING THE STRIKE. ALSO, THEY HAD PLANNED THE CALL FOR A NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT. WILLS COMMENTED THAT JAGAN WOULD HAVE BEEN "A DUNCE" HAD HE STUCK BY HIS DECISION NOT TO STRIKE. HIS POLITICAL SURVIVAL DEPENDED UPON HIS CHALLENGE TO BURNHAM. IF JAGAN HAD NOT ACTED TO HALT THE SUGAR INDUSTRY HIS CREDIBILITY WITH HIS CONSTITUENCY WOULD HAVE FURTHER ERODED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 02054 301855Z

3. COMMENT: THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN MEDDLING IN GUYANA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS IS NOT NEWS. THE NEWS IS THAT BURNHAM FINALLY AUTHORIZED HIS FONMIN TO PROTEST. FONMIN WILLS HAS LONG COMPLAINED IN PRIVATE ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY. WE HAD LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT KOVAL, THE PRIME MOVER IN THIS MATTER, DEPARTED ON A SUDDEN "VACATION" ON AUGUST 25 OR 26. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET MEDDLING SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR SERIOUS STRAINS IN GOG-SOVIET RELATIONS, I DO NOT THINK THIS WILL HAPPEN. THE GUYANESE PREVIOUSLY HAVE WARNED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN Milder TERMS, BUT BURNHAM'S SELF-GENERATED NEED TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION AS A REVOLUTIONARY AND A SOCIALIST APPEARS TO HAVE RESTRAINED HIM FROM DOING ANYTHING DRASTIC AGAINST THE SOVIETS. HIS APPROACH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AIMED AT TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM THAT GUYANESE COOPERATIVE SOCIALISM IS A VALID APPROACH TO AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY. UNFORTUNATELY, BURNHAM DOES NOT APPEAR TO UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET INSISTENCE ON "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" AS THE ONLY TRUE SOCIALISM IS THEIR WAY OF EXTENDING INFLUENCE AND CONTROL. I VIEW THE PROTEST AS A TACTICAL ATTEMPT BY BURNHAM TO INDUCE

THE SOVIETS TO PERSUADE JAGAN TO END THE SUGAR STRIKE.
ZLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, SUGAR, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE02054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770314-0127
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977089/aaaaahma.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6b4ae360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 2013, 77 GEORGETOWN 2025
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1689202
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANA PROTESTS SOVIET MEDDLING
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, GY, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b4ae360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009